THE FACTS: Pennsylvania

Public Health Funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Pennsylvania receives $17.87 per person in funding from CDC (46th in the nation) and $25.47 per person from HRSA (33rd in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over $107 million in grants to Pennsylvania since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to Care: 5.6 percent of people in Pennsylvania do not have health insurance coverage, which is below the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Pennsylvania has 199.8 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, well above the nation average of 149.7 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures
- Tobacco use: In the past five years, smoking decreased 19.6 percent from 22.4 percent to 18.0 percent of adults. Yet, each year, 22,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Pennsylvania and $6.4 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- Physical inactivity: In the past year, physical inactivity decreased 17.6 percent from 27.8 percent to 22.9 percent of adults.
- Obesity: 30.3 percent of the adult population in Pennsylvania is obese, ranking the state 26th in the nation. The adult obesity rate in the state has more than doubled since 1990. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

The Challenges Ahead
- Drug deaths: Pennsylvania has the 8th highest drug death rate in the nation. In the past ten years, drug deaths increased 80 percent from 12.3 to 22.2 deaths per 100,000 people.
- Air pollution: Pennsylvania is ranked 48th in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 10.1 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

Sources: Trust for America’s Health, Investing in America’s Health; Trust for America’s Health, Prevention and Public Health Fund at Work in States; U.S. Census Bureau, 2015, 2016, and 2017 1-Year American Community Surveys; United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tobacco Control Program Funding.